



JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE UNITED STATES
Presiding

LEONIDAS RALPH MECHAM
Secretary

November 13, 2002

MEMORANDUM TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

SUBJECT: URGENT ACTION NEEDED -- Congress has Approved a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Itself and all Other Federal Employees while Denying a COLA for Federal Judges

Unless immediate action is taken, Congress will deny a 3.1 percent COLA to all federal judges while at the same time approving a 3.1 percent COLA commencing January 1, 2003, for all members of Congress, for the President's Cabinet and for all other federal employees. This is an injustice and violates the promise Congress made when it passed the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 which assured judges that they would receive an ECI-based COLA every year.

Unless Congress acts immediately, it will have adjourned, gone home, given itself a COLA but denied one to federal judges. I respectfully suggest that this is unfair to the judges.

Before adjourning, Congress should suspend Section 140 of Public Law 97-92 which thus would permit the promised COLA for judges.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonidas Ralph Mecham".

Leonidas Ralph Mecham

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